

# WATER CONSERVATION



*Fort Detrick Environment*

## I N S I D E   S C O O P

- ◆ Check for leaks. Dripping faucets and leaky toilets are the leading culprits in home water waste. All housing residents should contact GMH Military Housing at 240-379-6518 for plumbing repairs. Authorized personnel at administrative and industrial facilities should contact the DIS trouble desk at 301-619-2726 for plumbing repairs. One faucet repair can save up to 300 gallons a month.
  - ◆ Take short showers, even a one or two minute reduction can save up to 700 gallons per month. Install water-saving showerheads or flow restrictors. This will save 500-800 gallons per month.
  - ◆ Stop using the toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. Every time you flush a cigarette butt, facial tissue, insects, or other small bits of trash, you waste 5-7 gallons of water.
  - ◆ Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
  - ◆ Turn off the running water while brushing your teeth and save 25 gallons a month.
  - ◆ Rinse the razor in the sink. Fill the bottom of the sink with a few inches of warm water. Turn off the water while you shave and save up to 300 gallons a month.
  - ◆ When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink or tub with wash water and the other with rinse water. This will save 200-500 gallons a month.
  - ◆ Put a pitcher of water for drinking in the refrigerator instead of running the tap until it is cool. This can save 200 to 300 gallons a month and the water will even taste better!
  - ◆ Rinse vegetables and fruit in a pan of clean water, this will save 150 to 250 gallons a month, then **reuse the water** from the pan to water your houseplants.
  - ◆ Run your washing machine and dishwasher only with full loads. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
  - ◆ When cleaning out fish tanks, reuse the nutrient-rich water to water your plants.
  - ◆ Designate one glass for your drinking water each day or refill a water bottle. This will cut down on the number of glasses to be washed.
  - ◆ Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator for water efficiency and food safety or in the microwave if appropriate. This will save 50-150 gallons a month.
  - ◆ Bathe your pets outdoors in an area of your lawn that needs water.
  - ◆ When you save water, you save money on your utility bills too. Saving water is easy for everyone to do.
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- ◆ In the event of a drought, the Installation Commander may direct strict water conservation measures for Fort Detrick water customers.

*Prepared by the Fort Detrick Environmental Management Office. For more information please contact 301-619-3163*